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Senate Panel Approves A State Dept. Nominee

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (UPI) — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today approved the nomination of Richard Burt as Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs over the objection of Senator Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina.

The committee also approved the nominations of new United States Ambassadors to Rwanda, Zaire, Gambia, Botswana, Somalia, the Seychelles, Jamaica and Panama.

Mr. Burt, director of the State Department's Bureau for Politico-Military Affairs, is a former Washington correspondent for The New York Times.

In 1979 Mr. Burt wrote an article that Senator Helms said contained classified information. It had to do with new American technology for detecting Soviet missile tests. The article said some of the tests would be monitored from Norway instead of from Iran and Turkey, where the United States had lost listening posts.

Mr. Helms told Mr. Burt at a Sept. 15 confirmation hearing that he and other senators, including the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, were concerned that intelligence information might have been compromised.

At Mr. Helms's request, Senator Charles H. Percy, Republican of Illinois, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, asked the intelligence committee to prepare a "damage assessment" report on Mr. Burt.

That report was not released, but two Foreign Relations Committee members who are also on the Intelligence Committee — Senators Joseph R. Biden Jr., Democrat of Delaware, and Richard G. Lugar, Republican of Indiana — voted today to confirm Mr. Burt.